

Media Contacts:

Marcie Gordon, Director, Community Engagement and Marketing
North Carolina Museum of History
919-280-1888, marcie.gordon@ncdcr.gov
Alyson Vuley, Community Programs and Festivals Coordinator
North Carolina Museum of History
919-814-7039, alyson.vuley@ncdcr.gov



26th Annual American Indian Heritage Celebration

Celebrate National American Indian Heritage Month virtually with the NC Museum of History



Images: [Dropbox link](#) for promotional images, courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

October 26, 2021 (RALEIGH, N.C.) – This November will mark the 26th year of the [American Indian Heritage Celebration](#) at the North Carolina Museum of History. The state’s featured event for recognizing National American Indian Heritage Month will be held as an online experience on Saturday, November 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Named a “Top 20 Event” by the Southeast Tourism Society five years running, artists, performers, scholars, historians, and other representatives from North Carolina’s eight state-recognized tribes and four Urban American Indian Organizations will share their skills, knowledge, and cultural heritage during this full-day virtual event. **All interactive sessions are free.**

To ensure the safety of our guests, staff, and presenters, this year’s annual festival will be held entirely online. However, that doesn’t mean the interactive activities have stopped! Engage with livestreamed events and on-demand videos of performances, panel discussions, and demonstrations from the safety and comfort of your home or classroom.

“We are honored to work with a dedicated advisory board of American Indian knowledge keepers, artists, educators, business leaders, historians, and more, from the eight state-recognized tribes and four Urban American Indian organizations, with the support of our community partner, the NC Commission of Indian

Affairs,” says Alyson Vuley, Community Programs and Festivals Coordinator for the North Carolina Museum of History. “We’re looking forward to celebrating American Indian history and traditions, as well as shining a light on contemporary issues and accomplishments, with viewers from across the state and beyond!”

Registration is limited for all sessions, with an exception to the Music and Dance Performances, so be sure to sign up today! During the weekend, viewers will have multiple opportunities to learn about the [eight state-recognized tribes](#) in North Carolina. **Highlights of the festival include the following:**

- For educators, virtually join us the day before on Friday, November 19, for the AIHC Education Day. Enjoy *Live!* music and dance performances like Women’s Jingle and Men’s Grass, as well as online workshops featuring crafting traditions, storytelling, and more.
- During the festival day on Saturday, learn about beading, basketry, and pottery and the histories and traditions behind them.
- Hear the creators of the Red Justice Project podcast as they discuss Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls issues.
- Join the Lumbee Cultural Advisor and the actor playing Manteo in the 2021 season of *The Lost Colony*. This year is the outdoor drama’s first time in its 84-year run to cast only Indigenous peoples for the roles of the American Indians.

For a fun, educational, and safe experience, register your virtual seat to the videos on-demand and interactives you would like to join in on for the 26th annual American Indian Heritage Celebration. For a full schedule of all performances and presentations, visit <https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org/aihc-2021>. Join the museum’s membership during this virtual festival and get your MOHA/ museum membership for half price!

In order to ensure the safety of our audiences, staff, and esteemed presenters, the North Carolina Museum of History will be closed to the public on Friday, November 19th.

Sponsored, in part, by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs; the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County; the Raleigh Arts; RedHat; Food Lion; PNC; Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC; Wellcare; Google; the Lumbee Tribe; Coastal Credit Union; Truist; Chiesi USA; Locklear Roofing; Friends of Town Creek Mound; Curi; North State Bank; Lumbee Guaranty Bank; Metcon; Stewart Engineering; CT Wilson; and Providence Bank.

The event’s official hashtag is #AIHC2021.

For information about the NC Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate museum, call 919-814-7000 or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](https://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow the museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

About the NC Museum of History

The North Carolina Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, fosters a passion for North Carolina history. This museum collects and preserves artifacts of state history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. **Admission is free.** In 2019 more than 465,000 people visited the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum

collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the Smithsonian Affiliations Network

Since 2006, the North Carolina Museum of History has been a Smithsonian Affiliate, part of a select group of museums and cultural, educational, and arts organizations that share Smithsonian resources with the nation. The Smithsonian Affiliations network is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums and other educational and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at affiliations.si.edu.

About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational, and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries, and natural assets in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums, and Jennette's Pier, as well as 39 state parks and recreation areas, the North Carolina Zoo, the nation's first state-supported symphonic orchestra, the State Library of North Carolina, the State Archives of North Carolina, the North Carolina Arts Council, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, along with the state Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, call 919-814-6800 or visit DNCR.nc.gov.

###